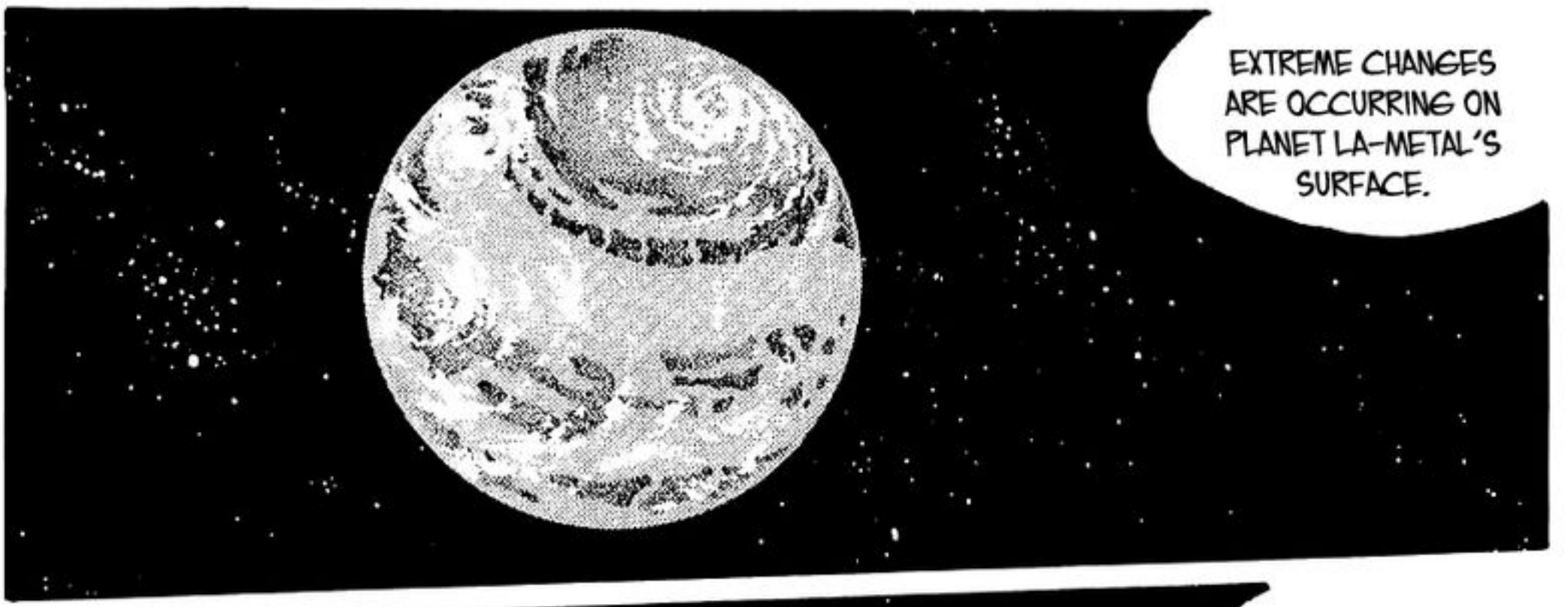
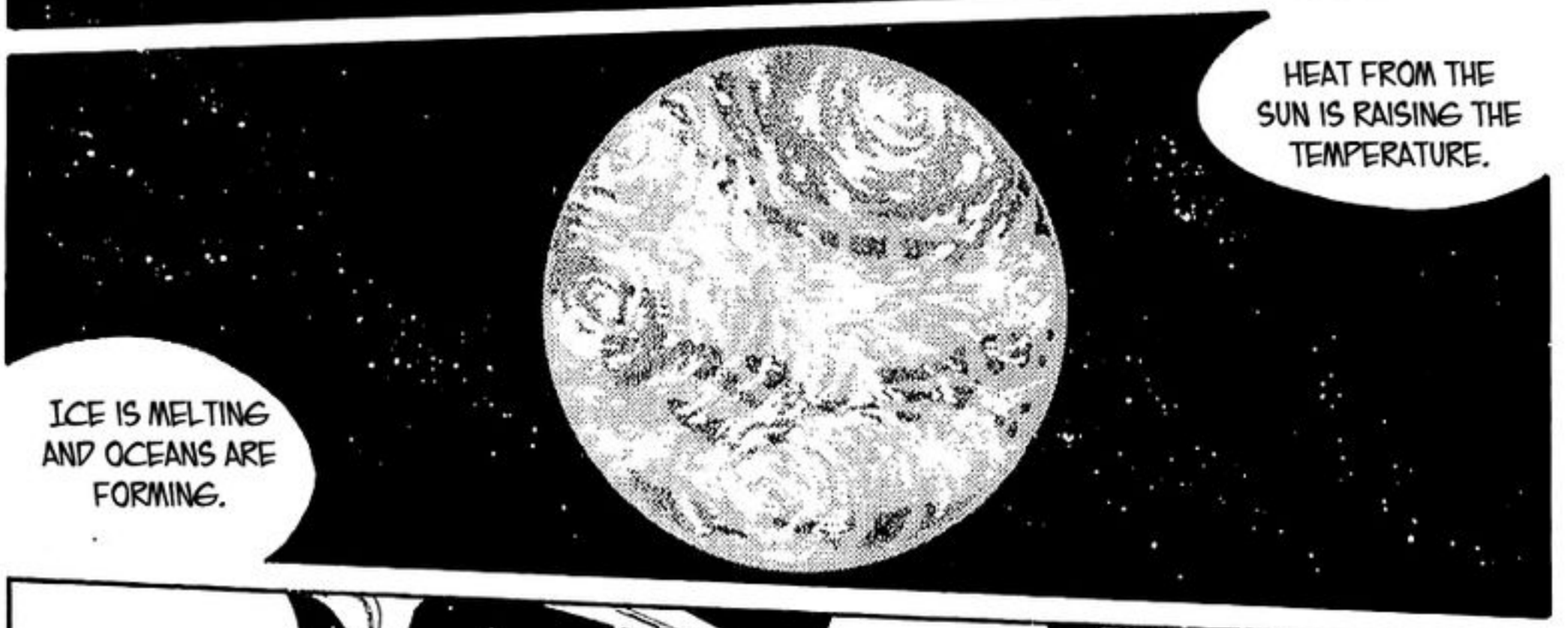
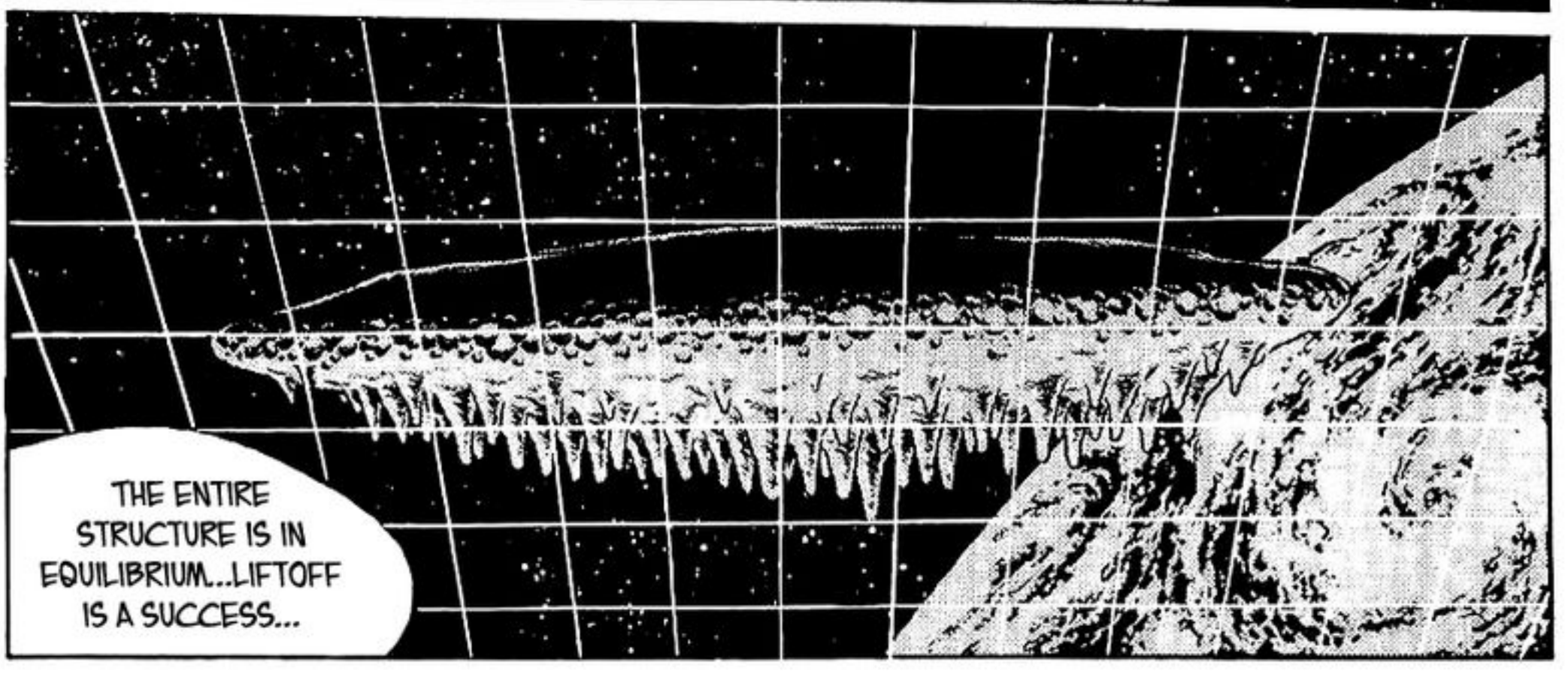
PLANET LA-METAL HAS CROSSED NEPTUNE'S ORBIT...ACCELERATION IS INCREASING!!

YAYOI'S FACE LOOKS PRETTY SCARY...

IT STILL ISN'T BALANCED...TAKE IT SLOWLY...THAT'S RIGHT, SLOWLY... MODULATE GYRO PLUS...TWO


EXTREME CHANGES ARE OCCURRING ON PLANET LA-METAL'S SURFACE.


HEAT FROM THE SUN IS RAISING THE TEMPERATURE.
ICE IS MELTING AND OCEANS ARE FORMING.
SPRING ON LA-METAL?
SPRING IS COMING TO LA-METAL.
A BRIEF SPRING ONCE IN A THOUSAND YEARS...
ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS...A BRIEF SPRING ARRIVES.


THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS IN EQUILIBRIUM...LIFTOFF IS A SUCCESS...

WE ARE SEPARATING FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.
KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT ON OUR COURSE SO THAT WE CAN BRIDGE SUCCESSFULLY.
BRIDGE?
UH-HUH. A "BRIDGE" THROUGH SPACE, HASHIME.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT IS OUTSIDE IS REAL SPACE...EMPTY VACUUM.

THIS CAVESHIP LIFTOFF IS THE SAME AS THE ONE WE SHOWED IN THE GROUP SIMULATION.

LA-METAL IS APPROACHING AND THE BRIDGE IS FORMING.

IT'S STARTING TO LOOK LIKE EARTH.

MAYBE SHE'S GOING TO TALK TO THAT SHADOW AGAIN?

AGAIN?

YOU HAVE ANOTHER COMMUNICATION IN YOUR PRIVY CHAMBER.

YES. JUST AS YOU SAW BEFORE.

SO DOES THAT MEAN OTHER CITIES TOOK OFF AS WELL?

ABOVE IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA THEY'RE FINE. THE PROFESSOR IS IN THE OBSERVATORY.

WHERE ARE HER PARENTS?

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

I WOULDN'T GO WITH HER, HASHIME.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE JUST SEEN PARTS OF IT. WITHOUT KNOWING THE OVERALL PLAN IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK ANYWHERE.

I REALIZE THE CAVE IS FLYING, BUT I DON'T KNOW THE LAYOUT SO I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE.

YAYOI WON'T SCOLD ME?

COME WITH ME. I'LL SHOW YOU A MAP.

THAT'S · RIGHT · A · FRIEND!!

A FRIEND...

PROBABLY A FRIEND.

NOT IF IT'S YOU. YOU SEEM TO BE A SPECIAL GUEST.

EH!?

MR. YAMORI, SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING US.

THAT...!!

RIGHT, THAT...!!

THE SHADOW I SAW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COMMUNICATION DEVICE IN YAYOI'S ROOM...!?

IT DISAPPEARED...!!

UH-HUH. AND IT WAS STANDING RIGHT THERE.

IT LOOKED A BIT LIKE A DOLL.

I'VE NEVER LIKED THIS CAVERN MUCH...

. . .

MAYBE A GHOST...? IT WAS QUITE CREEPY.

OH, PROFESSOR. ARE YOU EATING? HASHIME IS PROBABLY IN THE MAP ROOM.

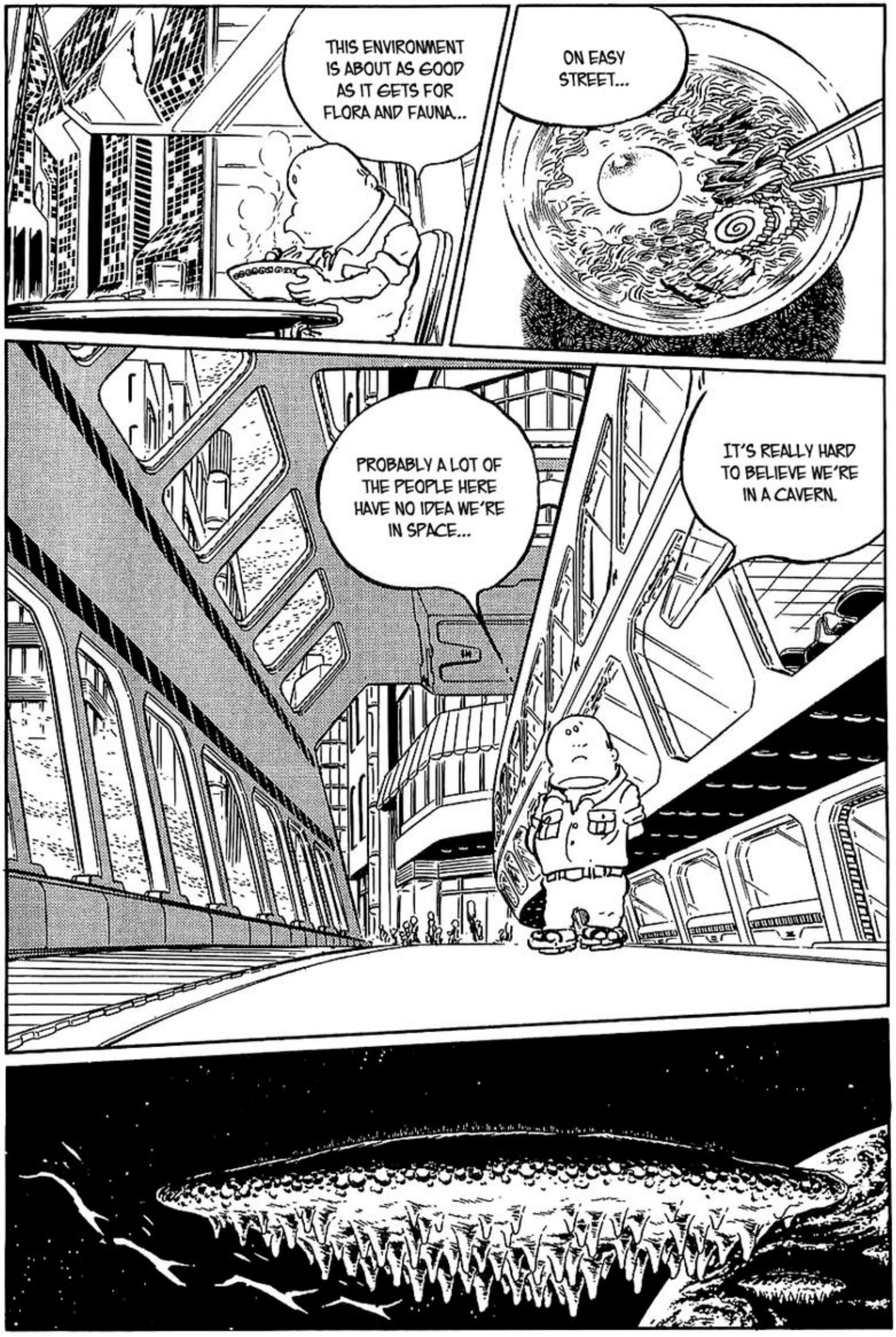
レストラン

HEY, YAYOI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IS HASHIME GOOFING OFF SOMEWHERE? I'M LONESOME.

(SIGN: RESTAURANT)

WE ARE CURRENTLY HEADED FOR LA-METAL, SO RELAX AND TAKE IT EASY...

YOU SHOWED ME THE CAVERN BEFORE WE TOOK OFF, SO I KNOW MY WAY AROUND. THE LIVING QUARTERS ARE FULLY EQUIPPED. HOW LONG WILL WE BE LIVING HERE?


THIS ENVIRONMENT IS ABOUT AS GOOD AS IT GETS FOR FLORA AND FAUNA...
ON EASY STREET...
PROBABLY A LOT OF THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE NO IDEA WE'RE IN SPACE...
IT'S REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE WE'RE IN A CAVERN.

WHY DID YOU NOT COME TO THE TELEPHONE AT ONCE, YAYOI...?

WE HAD A LONG AND BITTER WINTER...WE COULD HARDLY WAIT FOR SPRING TO COME...

YOU...!!

THEY COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YEARS OF PREPARATION.

THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HERE AND BACK ON EARTH. IT'S A TOWN BUILT UNDERGROUND...

GOODNESS, THERE'S EVEN A BOOKSTORE!!

EH

HEY, OLD MAN! HAVE YOU FOUND ANY INTERESTING BOOKS?

AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, HOW DID YOU KNOW THE MAP ROOM EVEN EXISTED?

THIS BLOCK IS AT THE END OF A MAZE OF PASSAGES...

THIS CHILD SHOWED ME THE WAY. SHE KNOWS THE PASSAGES WELL!!

AH

HEY THERE!! SO THERE YOU ARE!! I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT AS WELL.

EH!! PROFESSOR!! HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE!?

IF YOU MEMORIZE THE PLAN OF THE SHIP, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WALK ABOUT FREELY.

HASHIME, THIS IS THE MAP ROOM. IT IS A TOP SECRET AREA WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS.

UNCLE!!

LARLA? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU INSIDE THE CAVERN BEFORE...

HOW DO YOU DO? I'M LARLA.

WHICH BLOCK IS YOUR DUTY STATION?

THAT'S RIGHT...BUT I KNOW YOU QUITE WELL.

THE PLACE WHERE YOU WORK, MEAN-ING...

DUTY STATION? WHAT'S THAT?

DOES IT REALLY MATTER? I WANT TO SEE THE MAP NOW. OPEN THE DOOR!!

WHO ARE YOU!?

OH! I DON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR THAT STUFF...

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS ASK YAYOI YUKINO ABOUT ME. NOW OPEN THE DOOR!!

THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING SOMEONE IN WHO DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HER DUTY STATION!!

DON'T MESS AROUND!! THE MAP ROOM IS TOP SECRET!!

AN IMPORTANT PERSON?

SHE IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF MEETING WITH A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON...

BUT THEN, IF YOU ASK HER RIGHT NOW SHE PROBABLY WON'T ANSWER.

EH...NO, IT'S NOTHING. NOTHING AT ALL.

WHAT'S UP, YAMORI? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

IN THE COM-MUNICATIONS ROOM...!!

THAT'S SOME CRAP COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.

IT'S WEIRD HE'D SHOW IT TO A MONKEY LIKE YOU BUT NOT TO ME.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!! THERE'S NO WAY I'M SHOWING THE MAP ROOM TO SOMEONE WHOSE POSITION I DON'T KNOW!! LEAVE!!

NOW!! NOW!! OPEN THIS DOOR NOW!!

YAMORI, OPEN THE DOOR!! AT ONCE!!

!!

SHUT UP, BRAT. MR. YAMORI IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ROOM.

00
THANK GOODNESS!! YAYOI!! WE'VE GOT A BIT OF TROUBLE HERE.
SHE'S DEFI-NITELY GONE...
THIS CHILD...!? UEHH...SHE DISAPPEARED FROM RIGHT BESIDE US??
TROUBLE?

ARE YOU SURE, HASHIME?

L- LARLA...THAT BRAT VANISHED!!

IT WASN'T AN OPTICAL ILLUSION?

THAT'S KINDA CREEPY.

NO, IT'S JUST...

WHAT IS IT, YAMORI? AM I THAT STRANGE? OPEN THE DOOR!!

I CAME BY MYSELF, HASHIME.

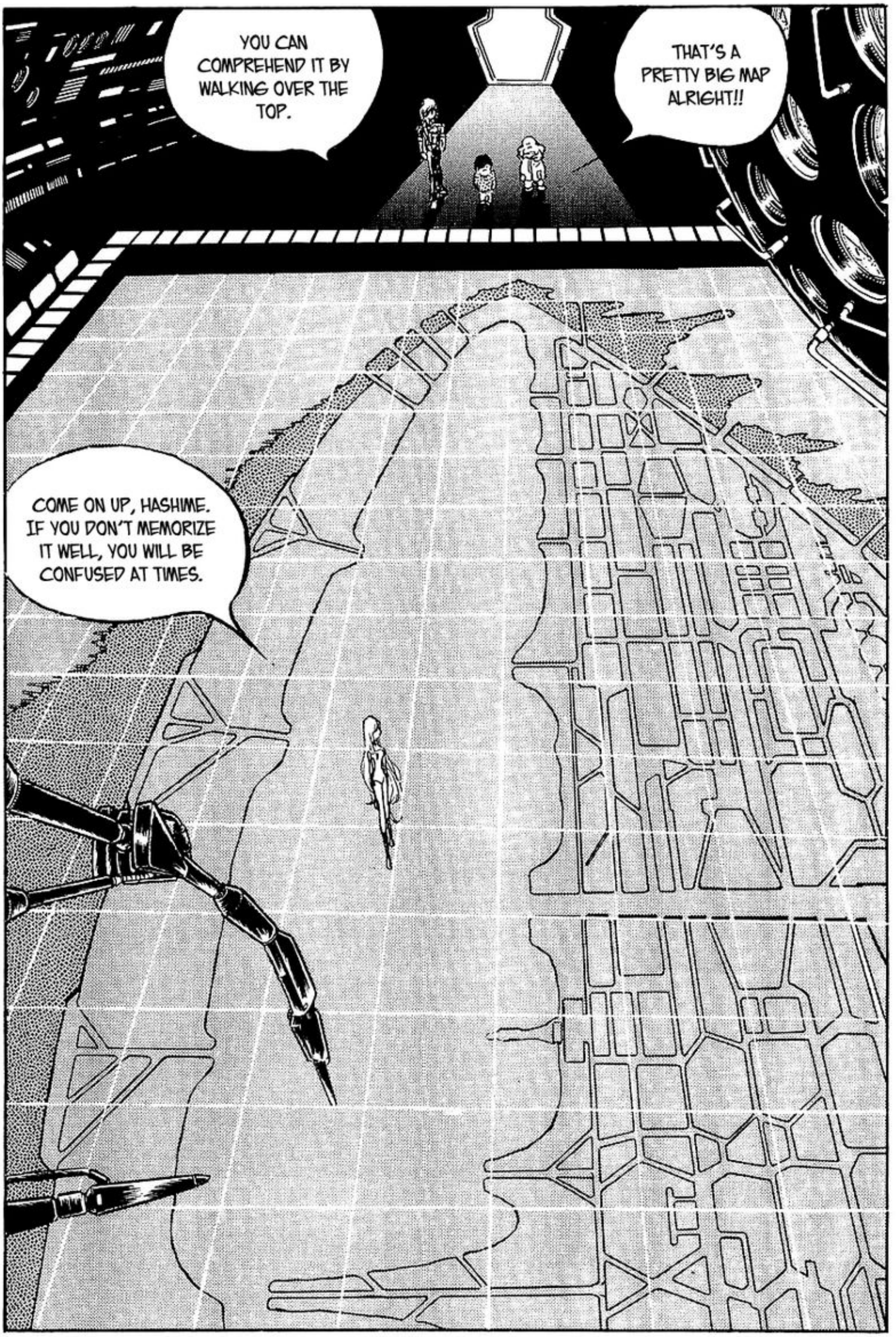
SHE REALLY DISAPPEARED, YAYOI!! JUST LIKE THE GUY NEXT TO YOU DID!!

FUWAHH

THE DOOR IS OPEN.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT! SHUT UP AND BE QUIET!

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT WHO YAYOI WAS TALKING TO IN THE COMMUNICA-TIONS ROOM?


YOU CAN COMPREHEND IT BY WALKING OVER THE TOP.
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG MAP ALRIGHT!!
COME ON UP, HASHIME. IF YOU DON'T MEMORIZE IT WELL, YOU WILL BE CONFUSED AT TIMES.

THE UPPER CAVERN IS WHERE THE NATURAL JUNGLE IS.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS A CROSS-SECTION OF THE CAVESHIP. IT DIVIDES INTO TWO MAIN LEVELS.

BELOW IS THE BLOCK WITH THE PHYSICAL PLANT, THE ENGINE, AND SO FORTH!!

EH... AND EVEN FURTHER DOWN...

THE LOWER ARMOR PLATES, THE ROCKY EXTERIOR, AND BELOW THAT...SPACE!!

THAT'S RIGHT. THE LOWER BLOCK CONTAINS THE UNDERGROUND CITY FOR LIVING AND THE LIFT AND PROPULSION SYSTEMS.

WHEN WE LEFT, I SAW A TON OF PARTS IN THE ENGINE ROOM MADE BY MY FATHER...THAT IS, BY MY FAMILY'S COMPANY.

THOUGH YOUR FATHER NEVER KNEW WHAT HE WAS MAKING...

THEY MADE PARTS FOR US STARTING LONG BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

SURE

MAY I CONTINUE EXPLAINING THE MAP TO THE PROFES-SOR?

SINCE LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN?

THAT'S A CRAZY BIG HANGAR. DOES IT HOLD A GROUP OF SPACESHIPS?

BELOW US SEPARATED BY TWENTY METERS OF ARMOR PLATING IS A HANGAR.

THE MAP ROOM WHERE WE ARE IS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CENTRAL SECTION.

I SEE.

SHALL WE LEAVE NOW? I HAVE TO GET THE CAVESHIP INTO A SAFE POSITION BEFORE WE CROSS THE SPACE BRIDGE.

UH-HUH...YOU SAW THEM BEFORE, NEXT TO THE RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX.

A BRIDGE IN SPACE? WHAT'S THAT?

PLANET LA-METAL IS CURRENTLY APPROACHING THE ORBIT OF SATURN. IT'S VELOCITY IS CONTINUOUSLY INCREASING...

IT HAS COME TO RESEMBLE THE EARTH MORE AND MORE.

AS IT APPROACHES THE SUN, ITS TEMPERATURE INCREASES AND THE SURFACE ICE IS GETTING LOOSE.

A GIANT SECOND EARTH...

BY THE TIME IT ARRIVES WHERE THE EARTH IS, I GUESS IT WILL LOOK LIKE A BALL WRAPPED IN SEAWATER.

LIQUID WATER IS NOW VISIBLE IN THE CRACKS AND CREVICES OF THE ICE.

THERE IS NOTHING ON THE SURFACE OF LA-METAL THAT ONE WOULD RECOGNIZE AS DRY LAND.

SO MY UNCLE WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL!!

AFTER CALCULATING THE INCREASES AND DECREASES IN SPEED, IT LOOKS LIKE THE CLOSEST APPROACH TO EARTH WILL INDEED BE SEPTEMBER 9, 1999.

THE ENVELOPING WATER AVERAGES A DEPTH OF A THOUSAND METERS. IN PLACES IT IS DEEPER. THERE ARE SEVERAL THREE-THOUSAND METER TRENCHES THAT PARALLEL THE EQUATOR.

THE FINAL DATA... LA-METAL WILL MAKE ITS CLOSET APPROACH TO EARTH ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1999 AT 9 O'CLOCK, 9 MINUTES, AND 9 SECONDS.

WITH ITS UNIQUE CRUSTAL STRUCTURE, LA-METAL WILL ESCAPE INTENSE DESTRUCTION...

HASN'T SEPTEMBER 9 ALREADY COME AND GONE?

NOW IT'S TOO LATE.

THAT DAMN COUNTERMEASURES COMMITTEE FIRED ME BECAUSE THEY SAID MY PREDICTION WAS BOLLOCKS.

BUT IF IT PASSES BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE MOON, BOTH...WILL PROBABLY EXPLODE. IT WILL MEAN THE END OF THEIR EXISTENCE AS PLANETS.

!!

BUT IT'S ALREADY PASSED. YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ONCE A DATE HAS PASSED.

DON'T YOU BE RUDE! GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT THIS FINE COMPUTER'S HIGHLY PRECISE APPRAISAL.

OF COURSE WE ARE.

.....

WE ARE THE VICTIMS OF GROUP HYPNOSIS!!

CUT THE ENERGY TO THE ANALYSIS COMPUTER!! WE MUST NOT BE FOOLED!!

NO IDEA.

UNPARALLELED ACCURACY!! WHO WOULD CAUSE OUR COMPLETELY FLAWLESS COMPUTER TO GO HAYWIRE, PROFESSOR?

I'M GOING TO THE COMMUNI-CATION ROOM. YOU'RE IN CHARGE, YAMORI!!

SOMEONE ENTERED FAKE INFORMATION INTO THE COMPUTER!!

I HAVE NO INTEREST IN A DATE WITH THE LIKES OF YOU.

WILL YOU TALK WITH ME ALONE FOR A MINUTE?

AH! YOU'RE BACK!!

COME HERE A MINUTE, RUNT-BOY.

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE WE COULD BE FOOLED BY SOMETHING THAT SIMPLE!! I GUESS IT'S DANGEROUS TO TRUST A MACHINE.

WE KNOW THE PRECISE LOCATION OF LA-METAL, SO CALCULATING THE MAXIMUM APPROACH IS SIMPLE.

NO MATTER WHERE HE'S GONE, IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS CAVESHIP. IT'S NO BIG DEAL, PROFESSOR.

HE'S FINE.

OH. HASHIME HAS DISAPPEARED AGAIN.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE ROLE YOU ARE PLAYING RIGHT NOW, MISTER MONKEY? DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING ON EARTH RIGHT NOW?

THE WALLS HERE ARE THICK, SO NO ONE CAN OVERHEAR US.

YOU'VE BROUGHT ME ALL THE WAY TO THIS STOREROOM. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, LARLA?

THE SMARTEST PEOPLE ON EARTH FORMED SPACE FLEETS AND ESCAPED LONG AGO.

EARTH IS HELL. SO HUMANITY IS RIDING THESE CAVESHIPS...

ON AN EARTH THAT IS A HELL FILLED WITH FALLING FIREBALLS, THERE ARE PEOPLE DYING IN AGONY AND MISERY!!

PLUS THERE ARE A TON OF PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND.

DREGS!?

THE MONKEY PEOPLE LIKE YOU DOMICILED IN THESE CAVESHIPS ARE JUST THE LEFT-OVER DREGS.

I DON'T LIE.

THERE ARE PEOPLE LEFT ON EARTH!?

ARE YOU NOT ASHAMED, HASHIME!?

WITHOUT ANY EFFORT FROM YOU, YAYOI HAS SAVED YOU AND ABANDONED THE OTHERS.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

LARLA!! WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY!?

BUT I KNOW EVERY-THING...ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING...

I SUPPOSE YAYOI HID IT FROM YOU.

LARLELLA? NOT LARLA?

I AM LARLELLA. LEADER LARLELLA!!

NO507-2KP

W- WELL I D- DON'T PARTICU- LARLY HAVE ANY IN YOU.

I HAVE TAKEN QUITE AN INTER- EST IN YOU!!

GET AWAY FROM ME. YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.

CHEAPSKATE. YOU COULD JUST TELL ME NOW!!

IF YOU COME TO LA-METAL, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHO I AM.

YAYOI HAS A FIANCÉ!?

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LONG FOR YAYOI IT'S A WASTE OF TIME....SHE'S ENGAGED TO BE MAR- RIED...AND VERY SOON SHE'LL BE WITH HER FIANCÉ.

I DON'T WANT TO BE CLOSE TO YOU.

I THINK YOU AND I ARE GOING TO BE VERY CLOSE.

!!

JUST REMEMBER THIS. I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU.

PLUS YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT PROPORTIONS. FU FU...BYE!

HER FIANCÉ IS A WONDERFUL PERSON...YOU DON'T HOLD A CANDLE TO HIM.

NO...THE PLACE WHERE LARLA... LARLELLA WAS IS WARM...SHE WAS REALLY HERE...

COULD THAT HAVE BEEN A DREAM...?

IS IT TRUE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE LEFT BEHIND ON EARTH?

WHAT IS IT?

.....

YAYOI!!

HASHIME!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A STORE-ROOM?

YOU COULDN'T ACCOMMO-DATE THEM SO YOU LEFT THEM BEHIND? ?

UH-HUH. WITHOUT DOUBT THERE ARE...

OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL!?

NO. THOSE PEOPLE STAYED BEHIND OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

I'M CALCULATING LA-METAL'S AP-PROACH SPEED.

UNCLE, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?

ぽっぽっぽっ

I · AM · INCAPA-BLE · OF · COM-PUTATION

BUT ALADDIN IS HERE.

WE CAN'T TRUST COMPUTERS, SO THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

AN ABACUS IS THE BEST CALCULATING MACHINE HUMANS EVER CREATED.

WITH AN ABACUS?

I GUESS THERE'S STILL RAMEN ON EARTH?

MY TAB AT YAYOI'S FATHER'S RAMEN SHOP IS ADDING UP. DANG.

ズズズズ

?

¥38,600!!

EHH! SO THEY BELIEVE IN THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES!?

THE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN SEREN...

YAYOI, WHO IS IT THAT IS STILL ON EARTH?

BUT...THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE A GANG OF BAD GUYS.

UH-HUH...THEY BELIEVE IN WHAT THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES SAY...

IN OTHER WORDS...THERE ARE GOOD GUYS...EVEN AMONG THIEVES...

THERE WERE ALSO THIEVES LIKE ROBIN HOOD AND JIROKICHI THE RAT.

SHE ACTED LIKE YOU KNEW HER.

LARLELLA...

A WEIRD LITTLE RUNT NAMED LARLELLA

HASHIME, WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS?

A SHADOW? LIKE A GHOST?

BUT WHAT YOU SAW WAS JUST A SHADOW. A VERY DANGEROUS SHADOW...

I KNOW HER WELL.

SO WHEN IS IT?

WE NOW HAVE THE DATE FOR THE MAXIMUM APPROACH OF LA-METAL TOWARDS EARTH.

THE COMPUTER MALFUNCTION HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CLEARED. EVERYTHING IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.